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By Kimberly Wear

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Ramsey Isaacs joins the Jingle Jam Holiday Benefit. Read more on page 22.
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PG&E has submitted an application to surrender its license for the Potter Valley Project (PVP), and to remove the two defunct dams in the Eel River headwaters. This is a smart economic move, as the project has not generated electricity for over four years, and what was produced over the last 20 years was less than 1 percent of PG&E's entire hydropower portfolio. This failed hydroelectric project costs ratepayers a million dollars a year for absolutely no benefit, while continuing to cause significant ecological harm to the Eel.

We are currently at a critical juncture — the public's first opportunity to speak to federal regulators about decommissioning and encourage them to approve PG&E's plan for dam removal with no delay. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) needs to hear from our community about how this plan benefits public interest. The comment deadline has been extended to Friday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m.

The disinformation campaign from the MAGA movement is well-funded and

successful in generating ill-informed, but loud opposition to dam removal. We must be louder to ensure the Eel River dams are removed in time to save our struggling native fish. Your comment can make a difference!

The PVP includes a water diversion from the Eel to the Russian River. PG&E's plan allows for the Eel Russian Project Authority to use existing infrastructure to develop a new dam-free diversion under different rules that are more protective of Eel River habitat.

Dam removal is the most important action we can take to support recovery of the Eel's still-wild native fish, and allow steelhead to return to over 280 miles of prime upper basin habitat.

Please write a comment today in support of Eel River dam removal. Use the links below to find instructions and additional information.

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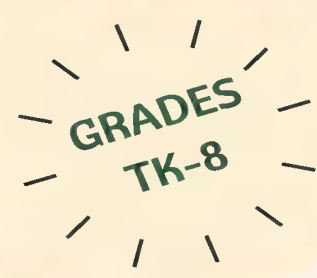
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Cal State University Unions Seek Notice of Federal Subpoenas in Antisemitism Investigation

Sworn statements detail CSU employee concerns, including at CPH, amid U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission investigation

By Amy DiPierro/EdSource
newsroom@northcoastjournal.com

California State University is caught between a federal government eager to investigate alleged antisemitism and employees concerned about privacy.

That dilemma has landed the nation's largest four-year public university in Los Angeles County Superior Court, where labor unions representing employees around the 22-campus system are waiting to see if they can win the support of a Superior Court judge — or perhaps reach an agreement with CSU itself — to allay members' fears of harassment and surveillance by the Trump administration.

Faculty members, a graduate teaching assistant, and a supervisor in a campus facilities department are among the employees who have filed declarations in state court, saying they are worried that Cal State will put their scholarships and well-being at risk by handing over personal information like cellphone numbers and email addresses to federal agencies. Their lawsuit seeking to require CSU to notify employees if it receives federal requests for such information in the future is being heard by Judge Stephen Goorvitch. The parties had plan to hold a conference with the judge as soon as this week, a spokesperson for the faculty union said.

The nine sworn statements, filed by employees from San Bernardino to Humboldt County in early November, show the fallout after CSU revealed in September that it is the subject of a systemwide investigation into allegations of antisemitism and a hostile environment by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). EEOC has filed one complaint related to that investigation, but CSU

anticipates others will follow.

Separately, Cal State alerted Cal State LA employees in September that it had complied with an EEOC subpoena related to a January complaint against the campus of roughly 22,000 students. The subpoena sought the contact information of all Cal State LA faculty and staff in connection with an investigation that also hinges on allegations of antisemitism.

The California Faculty Association (CFA) sued the California State University Board of Trustees in October, later adding Teamsters and United Auto Workers units at CSU as fellow plaintiffs. The unions said in court filings that prompt notification of future federal subpoenas would give employees the opportunity to object and attempt to intervene if they don't want their information shared with the federal government.

The conflict between Cal State and the employee unions comes amid a sweeping campaign by the White House to crack down on colleges and universities that it accuses of fostering political views with which it disagrees, including protesting Israel's military offensive in Gaza and supporting the rights of transgender students. The University of California system and the University of Pennsylvania are among the colleges facing EEOC investigations alleging a hostile work environment for Jewish employees.

Cal State says it has not received a subpoena related to the systemwide EEOC investigation and that there have not been any findings, settlement discussions or other federal actions in regard to it. The EEOC did not respond to a request seeking comment.

Goorvitch on Dec. 5 was scheduled to weigh the unions' request for a preliminary injunction. The court ultimately did not issue a decision and will instead accept additional briefing from CSU, said university system spokesperson Jason Maymon. A status conference on the matter was set for last week, CFA spokesperson Kenyon Farrow said.

A balancing act for Cal State
The systemwide EEOC investigation poses a subtle balancing act for Cal State, which has said it will cooperate in good faith with federal investigators while seeking to protect its employees' privacy. "Fulfilling our legal obligations does not mean surrendering our rights or agreeing with the allegations," the university system advises on a frequently asked questions webpage. "CSU is required by law to cooperate with an EEOC investigation, but cooperation does not mean that CSU accepts the allegations as true or automatically provides everything that is requested."

At Cal State LA, the university system has said it filed a petition to modify the subpoena, narrowing its original scope to exclude home addresses and details about why employees left the university. But Cal State LA ultimately provided information, including employees' names, genders, race and ethnicity, personal phone number, personal email and work sites.

In November, Cal State filed a brief opposing the unions' motion for a preliminary injunction, which the unions have since revised. Attorneys for the university system argued that federal law preempts state privacy protections and that its disclosure of information to a federal agency was permitted under state law.

Employees cite 'fear and intimidation'
Sworn statements by employees at Cal State LA depict what one described as an atmosphere of "fear and intimidation" on campus since employees learned that their personal contact information had been shared with the EEOC.

Philosophy master's student Eric Phipps said that shortly after CSU alerted employees about the disclosures, his professor and classmates in a course related to gender "expressed fears that their participation in the course could cause them to be targeted by the federal government and that CSU would not protect them."

Phipps, who works as an instructional student assistant, is now second-guessing whether to pursue a career in academia. "I feel that academic freedom is no longer

guaranteed, and I am now hesitant to publish my thesis because of the political views expressed therein," he wrote.

Faculty also worried that future federal requests would seek private emails with students and colleagues, or other information about their teaching, social media use and political activism.

Cal State LA professor Ericka Verba said she worries that if CSU were to provide the text of her emails to the federal government, she could face retaliation for her activism related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Verba, a member of Cal State LA's Latin American Studies Program, said her emails also "contain sensitive information about students' immigration status" that is not relevant to an antisemitism probe.

Concerns not limited to Cal State LA
Similar concerns have spread to employees at other CSU campuses, who said in court declarations that they are worried that future federal requests may seek information they consider confidential and personal.

Christopher Cox, a San Jose State University lecturer in sociology and interdisciplinary studies, wrote that his teaching specialties — including topics like colonization and international human rights — make him concerned "that I will be targeted for the courses that I teach at SJSU if my private information is subpoenaed by the EEOC or another federal agency."

At Cal Poly Humboldt, a philosophy lecturer said he feared his views on political issues, including LGBTQ+ rights, would put him at risk. Loren Cannon, who has worked at the Humboldt campus since 2006, said he was concerned that CSU may in the future turn over information about his scholarship and teaching "that would subject me to additional scrutiny, harassment and even the termination of my position."

Institutions of higher education have varied in how they respond to EEOC investigations into alleged discrimination against Jewish employees. The University of Pennsylvania sought to revoke an EEOC subpoena in its entirety, the federal agency said in a court filing. EEOC denied that effort and has asked a federal district court to force Penn to comply with a modified order. Meanwhile, Columbia University in New York City agreed to pay \$21 million to settle an EEOC investigation. ●

Amy DiPierro covers higher education and the California State University system.



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Embracing the Long Night of the Winter Solstice

By Hollie Ernest

newsroom@northcoastjournal.com

It seems much of the Northern Hemisphere is collectively irritated at the cold and lengthening darkness. Every year, complaints roll in as if the Earth has personally offended us by tilting its northern half away from the sun for an entire quarter of the year. Yet this tilt, this predictable and essential cosmic rhythm, is exactly what propels many natural cycles. Hard freezes keep insect

populations in check. Blueberries require certain hours of freezing temperatures to set fruit. Shortening days tell deciduous trees to drop their leaves, and after the solstice, longer days signal countless other plants to grow once more. Not so long ago, winter was not simply endured but understood as a period of

necessary rest and renewal. Surviving the season required preparation: stockpiling grains, drying fruit, canning vegetables and preserving meat. For our ancestors, winter solstice often marked the last major feast

before deep winter, a time of excess before the lean months ahead. They made wine and beer in autumn to be ready for these celebrations, and slaughtered

Continued on next page »



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livestock, not only for festive feasting, but because animals could not all be fed through the winter. Thankfully, the solstice no longer marks a time of potential famine for most of us. But it remains an opportunity to honor nature's cycle, and can be a time of rejuvenation for plants, animals and humans.

The winter solstice is technically a

single, precise moment when the North Pole reaches its maximum tilt away from the sun, about 23.4 degrees. The very word "solstice" comes from the Latin *sol*, meaning sun, and *sistere*, meaning to stand still, referring to the moment when the sun appears to pause low in the southern sky. But solstice celebrations begin the evening before and can last all night. Once, some

celebrations lasted 12 days. This year in Humboldt County, the longest night stretches from 4:52 p.m. on Dec. 20 to 7:37 a.m. on Dec. 21, lasting 14.75 hours.

The long nights of winter give us time to think about our intentions for the coming year as we welcome the gradual return of light. We have the choice to greet these hours with dread or with celebration.

Across cultures and centuries, winter solstice has been a time of awe, transition and renewal. In ancient Rome, the festival of Saturnalia honored the agricultural god Saturn (also the god of time) with feasts, games, gift-giving and social role-reversals. Originally spanning Dec. 17-19, it eventually expanded through Dec. 23. Romans also observed the festival of Sol Invictus — the Unconquered Sun god — celebrating the sun's symbolic rebirth on the solstice.

Mistletoe held deep significance for many ancient cultures: Romans, Celts, Druids and Norse peoples. It was considered sacred and was used in rituals of fertility (yes, sometimes put above the bed), healing, peace and protection. Today's custom of kissing under the mistletoe is a subdued echo of older, more elaborate customs.

Celtic legends describe the long night of solstice as the moment when the Holly King (darkness) yields his power to the Oak King (light). Other traditions view the holly tree as a symbol of renewal because its berries ripening in winter and as a symbol of protection because of its sharp leaves.

Even in ancient Egypt, solstice reverence appears in the alignment of several temples with the year's southernmost sunrise. Across time and place, people have honored this turning point of the year.

Whether or not you incorporate religious or spiritual elements, the winter solstice offers an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and reconnect — with yourself, with others and with the cycle of the natural world. Here are a few ways to bring meaning and fun to the longest night:

Historically, the Yule log was a massive piece of wood that could burn all night — possibly for the entire multi-day festival. You can light a fire in the backyard, a fireplace or wood burning stove. If that isn't accessible or appealing, you can simply light candles to symbolize the lengthening days.

Make something with your hands. Oranges traditionally symbolize the sun, and dried orange garlands are gorgeous, plus they smell good. Wreaths of evergreen, or a pinecone (or more likely a Douglas fir cone) ornament can reconnect you with the plants outside your window. Think about your desires and intentions for the coming year while moving your hands and infuse your craft with them.

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Soulstice

Fall has fallen
The twilight light
The day neatly folded into night

White wintry eve
The silent loon
The frostbit fingernail called the moon

The world is cold, my son, and bare
And this, our darkest even of the year,
May seem to cling forever near
But feel this heart, its warmth, its care
It beats for you foreverwhere

The sun is still, the sun is still
Still heating, still beating
And ever will

— Joshua Commander

and celebrate warmth and connection in the darkest time of year.

Try a burn-and-release ritual. Write down habits, fears or burdens you're ready to let go. Put the paper in the fire, or just light it (safely, outside), and allow the smoke to carry away your load.

Take a winter walk. Feel the stillness of the season and the damp air — hopefully not the rain. Take a breath of gratitude for the returning light, for the body that took you there or whatever comes to your mind.

For those looking to celebrate in community, the Eureka Library is hosting a solstice ornament-making event and the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center is offering a grounding solstice yoga class. More events throughout December can be found in the *Journals* calendar.

However you choose to mark the solstice — alone or surrounded by friends, quietly or raucously — the season deserves our acknowledgment and appreciation. Enjoy the merriment, the darkness and the coming light. ●

Hollie Ernest (she/her) calls Humboldt home, where she works in botany and forestry. At the moment, she's riding her bicycle around the world, currently in China, pedaling east.



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An Absence of Abalone

North Coast recreational fishery closed until 2036 as recovery remains elusive

By Kimberly Wear

kim@northcoastjournal.com

Unless conditions change dramatically in the interim, the North Coast's iconic recreational red abalone fishery will remain closed for at least another decade.

The move made official by a unanimous vote of the California Fish and Game Commission on Dec. 11 had been on the table for months as the delicate marine ecosystem on which the prized mollusks depend continues to struggle in the wake of what scientists have described as a "perfect storm" of successive ecological events dating back more than a decade.

Had the commission not taken the action to extend the temporary shuttering first enacted back in 2017 after the shellfish's numbers plummeted to unprecedented lows amid the collapse of the region's bull kelp forests — and lengthened twice in the intervening years — the fishery had been set to reopen April 1. Instead, the sunset date has been pushed back again until 2036.

While much of the public comment was supportive as the proposal made its way through the procedural process that began over the summer when the commission voted to publish a notice of the impending decision, some have asked for consideration of a shorter closure. Others have also floated the possibility of a limited take to gain a better insight on the status of the abalone stock, as well as to help raise money for enforcement and restoration.

The commission also had a hearing on the matter in October where members noted the course of placing the last vestige of recreational abalone diving in the state off limits for another decade can be altered before that mark if underwater conditions improve.

Before last week's vote, several noted the extensive discussions that had already taken place up to that point, covering everything from the reasons for another extension and potential alternatives to the difficulty of the decision for all involved.

"So we've had a dedicated conversation about our collective risk tolerance for re-opening this fishery and we've come to the conclusion, I think among us, that we really don't have very much tolerance for risk right now with the information we have," Commissioner Samantha Murray said. "So we agreed to focus on restoration of abalone and getting more information."

She also said "it was important to remember" that the state's Fish and Wildlife Department originally recommended a blanket moratorium without a specified end point.

"We scaled that back already to 10 years," Murray said. "So, for me, that is the right time horizon for taking this action, as difficult as it is, knowing we can have these check-in points along the way and will want to."

Fellow Commissioner Erika Zavaleta said she echoed Murray's points but also wanted to acknowledge the impacts the closure has had on coastal communities

that once depended on the recreation season as an economic driver, noting, "it sits heavily on me that the collapse of this fishery has destroyed livelihoods."

"That is in the room," Zavaleta continued, "and to recover that fishery we have to have abalone and that should be the focus. I'm really confident in the energy and the resources that are going towards that."

Things began to unravel back in August of 2011, when an outbreak of toxic algae off the Sonoma County coast led to a massive die-off of marine life. Then came the mysterious sea star wasting disease two years later, impacting an estimated 80 percent of the celestial-shaped creatures along the entire Pacific Coast, although earlier this year a group of researchers reported identifying the bacterium source after years of searching.

Amid the devastating spread, the sunflower star all but disappeared, removing from the scene the integral role the particularly voracious keystone predator — which can grow as large as a car tire and boasts 24-arms at maturity — played in the maintaining the health of kelp forests by keeping urchins in check with the notable ability to swallow one whole.

Meanwhile, back-to-back marine heat waves decimated the region's bull kelp forests, which are dependent on cool ocean temperatures to thrive. Following the so-called "warm water blob" of 2014 and the "Godzilla" El Niño of 2015, some areas off the Mendocino and Sonoma coasts saw declines in the waxy canopies of more than 90 percent compared to previous years.

Without the sunflower star on the prowl, the purple sea urchin population exploded. And, as bull kelp was in short supply, the formerly passive feeders — once content to feed on algae that float-

ed by — set their sights on what remained of the stocks and nearly everything else, transforming previously thriving reefs teeming with an array of sea life into virtual dead zones known as "urchin barrens."

Simply unable to keep up as urchins moved in on what was left of their main food supply, the slower-on-the-go abalone began to starve and reproduction levels fell, leading to the loss of an estimated 85 percent of the population across a wide swath of coastline stretching from Sonoma to Southern Humboldt over a few short years. Amid that backdrop, the fishery's original closure was approved in 2017.

During the August meeting when the decision was made to move forward with the process to set a new sunset date for the third time, the commission heard a status update on where things stand. The news was not good.

While there had been hope that the closure and ensuing extensions would give the beleaguered shellfish a chance to bounce back, both the stock and the region's marine environments remain in a fragile state in many areas eight years later.

"In spite of the ongoing moratorium ... abalone populations have shown no signs of recovery and kelp forests on the North Coast have not yet rebounded despite cooler ocean temperatures," Brian Owen, a senior marine ecologist with the state Fish and Wildlife Department, told the commission.

At play, he said, are many of the same complex, intertwined issues that lead to the ecosystem's collapse. That includes an ongoing overabundance of purple urchin, a lack of kelp recovery and the near extinction of the sunflower star, although Owen noted there have been seeing "some increase in sightings" in California's northern counties, but those "remain very low."

Complicating matters, he said, is the abalone's years-long path to maturity and their reproduction process of sending sperm and eggs out into the water, which requires dense populations for a successful match to be made.

Overall, Owen said, the North Coast is still seeing "low and variable levels" of young abalone.

Another factor is that without sunflower stars to help rein in sprawling purple urchin numbers, bull kelp — which grows as a single stalk and dies off each year — is still struggling to regain a foothold as new growths continue to fall victim to the spiky echinoids.

"So even when conditions improve and some of the barriers are removed, like increased kelp being available and stronger recruitment, it still can take a number of years before we see enough

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surplus abalone to consider reopening the fishery," he said.

At this month's commission meeting, speakers' comments continued along similar lines as previous discussions, with the majority voicing support for the closure as a necessary way to protect the sea snail tucked inside an intricate shell into the future.

Among those, several also noted the cultural significance abalone has carried for tribal communities for millennia, with a representative of Fish On also reiterating the group's previous calls for the commission to consider allowing tribal take first, when and if the fishery should reopen down the line.

But there were also calls for alternative routes, including a shorter closure and, as one speaker said, for the commission to start planning now for "a smart way to reopen this fishery ... in an incremental way."

Former abalone diver Jack Likins, who has been active in restoration efforts, said he "understood why the commission wanted to extend the closure for 10 years," but asked that the commission include in the motion a provision for staff to provide "updates on the status of the resource at least annually," saying "five years is a long time," in reference to the mid-point status review the board asked for during the August meeting.

He also noted there has been no abalone data collected by the department for the last two years, saying, "we've got some catching up to do to better understand the status of the fishery." And, he said, there's information being collected by numerous entities — from academic institutions and tribes to non-governmental agencies — but that "has not really been

Continued on page 19 »



Red abalone.

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Continued from page 17



A *pycnopodia* at Trinidad State Beach in 2005.
Photo by Mike Kelly

coordinated and brought together to use for abalone management.”

Other gaps, Likins added, are in intertidal data and the status of abalone in Humboldt and Del Norte counties.

During her comments, Murray said she wanted to reflect on a couple of the speakers’ remarks, saying she agrees that with “any future reopening we do really need to first consider tribal take, honoring that rich cultural heritage since time immemorial.”

In reference to Likins’ comments, she added that the commission “of course” wants the department to be working with “anyone who has knowledge to share on abalone, which is so iconic and important to California.”

On the subject of work being done outside of the department, Commissioner Jacque Hostler-Carmesin noted the efforts being undertaken by North Coast tribes, with “prolific restoration happening” that is showing signs of success and encouraged tribal marine departments to share that knowledge.

As the item was being introduced, Zavaleta noted the five-year update that commissioners had asked the department to provide but added that if the agency has “information, changes, updates before

that, obviously they can bring that to us.”

After she asked CDFW’s Marine Region Manager Craig Shuman if he wanted to elaborate further, he agreed the department can always bring forward new information at any time and noted he has heard the concerns being raised that a decision to move forward with a 10-year closure means the agency was going to “walk away from this resource.”

“I can assure the commission and stakeholders and tribes that we are certainly not going to do that,” Shuman said. “We understand the magnitude of what is being considered today. This is not a package that we brought to you lightly.”

He briefly touched on the long journey that came well before the extension on the table, saying it was a path notched by a “string of regulatory actions to reduce take over a period of time” that preceded the initial closure by a decade.

“This is just really unfortunate circumstances and we are going to do everything we can to bring this fishery back,” Shuman said. ●

Kimberly Wear is the Journal’s assistant editor. Reach her at kim@northcoastjournal.com.

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NCJ ON THE TABLE



The spread at the secret Potato Club gathering.

Photo by Jennifer Fumiko Cahill

Throw a Potato Party

By Jennifer Fumiko Cahill

jennifer@northcoastjournal.com

A couple months ago, I received a mysterious summons with strict instructions for secrecy. “There is no Potato Club,” it read. I will not divulge the identities of the guests or the hostess here.

We were invited for an evening of starchy revelry among women, a potluck to which we’d each bring a topping for the pile of baked potatoes our hostess provided. (There was also mention of “dark potato rituals” I dare not describe in detail except to say they involved light crafting.) I only break the sandy potato skin of secrecy because it’s too great an idea to keep underground.

It’s weird out there. We could all use an evening with our guards down, gathering and eating with friends to sigh into the steam of a hot meal, tell stories, share worries and snort laughing. But money is tight for too many of us and so is time, particularly during the holiday season.

Even cooking a simple meal for a few friends can seem like a mythical trial. Listen, I bought doughnuts to bring to my last potluck. We are all struggling.

It was this conundrum — desperately needing to recharge together and having no time or budget to do so — that our hostess recognized. A potato party, she said, is wonderfully low stakes and low prep, easily accommodating vegetarians, vegans and the gluten-free. It feels doable, not daunting, for both the host and guest.

As host, you get a sack of potatoes, scrub them and puncture them all over with a fork — this is extremely therapeutic. Oil, salt and place them on foil or parchment on a baking pan. Bake them in a 400 F oven for 45 minutes to 1 hour, depending on size (a fork should slide easily in and out when they’re done).

Your guests will handle the trimmings, bringing toppings according to their tastes, time, budget, dietary restrictions and

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desire to flex on the crowd. Shredded cheddar? Perfect. Fancy chèvre? *Oui*. A bowl of freshly chopped scallions or a pot of homemade chili — both work. The bespoke butter you never splurge on or the herbed salt you were gifted? Bring it. There are no rules in Potato Club. (Except the one I'm breaking right now, for which I expect retribution will be swift and salty.)

I had thoughts about curry but the day got away from me. In the end, I spooned horseradish and a few pinches of salt into a tub of mascarpone for a dollop of creaminess with a faint bite. When I arrived, the table was already crowded with salsa, cheeses, chopped bacon and a pot filled with hot baked potatoes. There were also bowls of fragrant chimichurri and *toum*, a sharp Lebanese garlic sauce, neither of which I would have considered for a baked potato before; both were delightful. A smaller pot held mashed cauliflower for the potato averse, a minority unknown to me until that moment. (**Bows head in silent reflection.*)

Circling the table to sprinkle and schmear our potatoes was cheerful chaos and an ice breaker for strangers. Scattered across couches, chairs and floor cushions, we dug into the plates on our laps, comparing notes and considering a second trip to the buffet of toppings. Easy, then, to fall into little pockets of conversation and be pulled into a story with the rest of the room.

Your friends don't need an event, they just want to see you. And in chilly, damp weather, they want to enjoy something hearty and warm with the pleasure of your company. When they offer to help clean up, do everyone a favor and accept. Letting guests carry in a few plates and round up stray glasses will make the evening that much easier for you and make the prospect of hosting the next one less intimidating to someone else. Send the leftovers home with your friends or drop the extra off with someone who could use them.

Midway through the evening, we began speculating about possible variations on Potato Club. What about sweet potatoes? Tots? Fries? Hashbrowns? A mashed potato night? Does potato bread count? The options, like the range of that subterranean queen the potato, seem limitless.

I could tell you what the plan is for the next meeting but I've already said too much. ●

Jennifer Fumiko Cahill (she/her) is the managing editor at the Journal.

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The Titaneer

By Cameron Berry

getout@northcoastjournal.com

It's still dark when I reach the trailhead at Jedediah Smith Redwoods. I'd hoped to be the first person at the Grove of Titans before dawn, but a single Subaru beat me to it. On the trail, in the blue-gray light, I spot a man moving mindfully along the trail with a trash picker in hand, gathering bits left behind by the previous day's visitors. He introduces himself as Doug — a "Titaneer." He's driven 300 miles from Healdsburg, as he does every month, to volunteer here. "It's the only pleasant 300-mile drive in California," he jokes.

Doug Kerr has always loved being outdoors, but the redwoods became something deeper for him after a 2021 guided hike on the newly opened Grove of Titans trail. The grove, once heavily trampled after its coordinates were posted online years earlier, had just been protected through a multi-agency partnership and a new elevated boardwalk. During the hike, Kerr asked the guide how they planned to keep such a pristine place protected. As soon as tour leader Erin Gates mentioned the volunteer group — the Titaneers — Kerr jumped in. "I want to be a part of this," he said. A few months later, he became Titaneer No. 1.

Though he's visited nearly every major redwood park from Big Sur to the Oregon border, Kerr says the Grove of Titans hit him differently. "I was absolutely blown away, he says. "This is nature at its best." What impressed him most wasn't just the size of the colossal trees, though many stretch wider than small cabins, but the sense of intactness of the grove. "This is what a redwood forest is supposed to look like," he tells visitors. Old-growth ecosystems tell a full story: mosses and lichens, wandering salamanders, tiny invertebrates living in canopy soil 15 stories above the ground, and the elusive marbled murrelet nesting unseen in the branches.

After the COVID pandemic sparked a renewed interest in outdoor spaces, the grove became a sensation. Last July alone, more than 40,000 visitors passed through.



Doug Kerr in the Grove of Titans.

Submitted

Even a carefully engineered boardwalk can feel the strain. "With that much foot traffic, there is wear and tear," Kerr says. Trail maintenance crews do what they can, but staff numbers are limited. That's where volunteers come in.

Titaneers act as interpreters, educators and the first line of care. They pick up litter, report damage, remove small hazards and answer every question imaginable. "People who break rules usually aren't trying to destroy the place," Kerr says. "It's out of ignorance, not malice. A little education can be very helpful." He has spoken with tens of thousands of visitors during his shifts — 10-hour summer days and rain-soaked winter ones. Fewer than a hundred have caused problems. "The vast majority treat it with the respect it deserves."

The work brings unexpected moments, too. One afternoon, after taking a couple's photo, Kerr handed back the phone — only to have it returned with a request for "just one more." Confused, he lifted the camera again just as the man dropped to one knee. The woman burst into tears. Afterward, she asked Kerr if her partner had arranged for him to be there. Doug laughs telling the story: "Absolutely not!"

For Kerr, caring for the land is tied to childhood memories of wandering the undeveloped woods near his home in upstate New York — woods that are now houses. He wants future generations to have what he had: the freedom to explore a forest that hasn't been erased. That sense of responsibility keeps him coming back to Titans, month after month. "I want kids today to be able to experience this kind of natural setting," he says.

But the future weighs on him. Climate

change, especially the loss of coastal fog, may pose the greatest threat these ancient trees have ever faced. Fog provides up to 40 percent of a redwood's summer moisture, and recent decades have shown a steady decline. Kerr has read the models: if fog disappears, the southern edge of the redwoods' range could die out first, with groves like Titans becoming the final refuge. "I hate to think it," he says, "but it's one scenario that could happen."

Yet redwoods also offer hope. Their wood growth is extraordinary — even the barely perceptible millimeter rings of old-growth trees represent huge amounts of carbon stored. "They're incredible carbon sinks," Kerr says. Their roots can persist for tens of thousands of years, sending up new trunks long after old ones fall. One study found a living root system over 30,000 years old. "They just keep reproducing themselves and continuing life seemingly forever."

Kerr looks wistful as he shares his secret to staying motivated in the face of climate change: "What gives me hope is that the people I talk to will become advocates."

If someone visits only one redwood grove in their lifetime, Kerr knows exactly which one it should be. "The Grove of Titans," he says. "And no one has ever disagreed with me." ●

Cameron Berry (he/they) is a writer and communications professional focused on the relationships between people, place and ecological resilience. He explores how stories can strengthen public understanding of conservation and community stewardship across Northern California and beyond.



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SETLIST

The Ghost of Christmas Present

By Collin Yeo

setlist@northcoastjournal.com

The morning holds its breath as each day begins with the uncertainty of whether the first exhalation will be expressed as a sigh or a scream. Or maybe all and more, with laughter filling out a frightening new combination. The news is just awful all the time, isn't it? Everything we understood in years past to be unsustainable but holding firm is now much less sturdy or falling away entirely, with the biggest speculation not being if it will peel off the structure, but how load bearing it was and how much damage will come in the wake of its collapse. While we shed a frightening amount of these foundational beliefs, the sound of cheap construction is deafening, as new illusions are being taped up everywhere, manufactured by mobs of frantic hands trying to cover the brutality of the widespread demolition with some kind of meaning.

The industry of dreams represented by the dazzling culture machines of Hollywood and popular music has given way to an atomized landscape of social media fabrications. The number of people working to create and share narratives has increased while the stocks and labor value have plummeted. When a mighty thing falls and dies now, it isn't replaced by another titan, but rather run over and picked apart by the agents of rot, who are legion. Hordes of bacteria and ants scuttle over the twilight of the giants in a feeding frenzy that resembles the chaos of pure static. This isn't a vibrantly choreographed interpretation of revolution; this is a free-for-all fire drill from a cast of terrified strangers who all occupy a high rise inside a fresh, burning crater. This is the elegant lobes of the brain meshing violently with the stem and basal ganglia in the hot, wet wake of the unspeakable. We are time traveling through the stages of evolution inside the multidimensional wormhole of

a mushroom cloud, and every new day is an advent calendar that hides monsters instead of candy, a Pandora's Box via subscription.

I don't think it's a stretch to say we'd all like things to be different. I know I would. I don't know how to make that happen, though, and I suspect few of us do. That's the tricky thing about living in the present: There's rarely any perspective until the moment has passed. But still we do what we can as it comes and try to focus on the local beat. There's a very real possibility that we aren't equipped to consider full engagement with anything larger most of the time.

Enough of that, here's a *mea culpa*. I got the dates wrong on the featured show last week — it happened on Saturday and I accidentally had it on Friday. I'm sorry to the good folks in **Frogbite** and their fans. If anyone wants to keep me honest and up to date for all events to be considered for this column, please drop a line at music@northcoastjournal.com. Happy holidays.

Thursday

The blues seem like a good soundtrack to roll out the carpet of this coming weekend and its official shift into winter, so how about a trip to the Logger Bar? There you will find a free gig by **The Back Seat Drivers** starting at 4 p.m., or as we call it these days, sunset's foyer.

Friday

Here are some local treats to stuff your stockings with. First up, Moss Oak Commons, where it's Freq Night again, with music from the crossroads of experimental electronic sounds, tap loops, treated guitar amp worship, holy synths and modulators, and lo-fi grooves. Check out **Hudson Glover, Luker, Samantha** and **Aermac 8** at 7 p.m. for a suggested \$5-\$10. When ponying up the dough, consider



The Arcata Playhouse hosts the Jingle Jam Holiday Benefit on Saturday, Dec. 20, with a 4 p.m. event for children and music at 7 p.m. Submitted

that this show is a benefit for Food Not Bombs.

There are two cosmic gigs an hour later. At the Wild Hare Tavern you will find Peggy Martinez and **Barking Dogma** playing the tunes of stellar being Kevyn Dymond for a mere \$5 at the door. If you are set on Eureka as your port of call, head over to the new-ish Siren's Song Tavern where the same door fee will grant you access to the music of **Halfwing**, **Widdershins** and **Good Time Charlies**. Huzzah.

Saturday

It's solstice eve, and due to the coming of another more celebrated eve on Wednesday, I'm loading the underboughs of this evening with shows to balance the silent nights ahead. The big shebang is happening over at the Arcata Playhouse, where the **Jingle Jam Holiday Benefit**, packed with so many local shining stars, will be happening in two forms, the first at 4 p.m., which will be for children. Santa will be there, and it's free with an online reservation and an accompanying adult. The main event is happening at the same location at 7 p.m. with a sliding scale cost from \$20-\$50 and all proceeds go to Humboldt Domestic Violence Service and North Coast Children's Services. Among the many fine musicians performing are a rock-solid rhythm section courtesy of bassist **Danny Gaon**, drummer **Ramsey Isaacs** and pianist **Matthew Seno**, as well as a whole Twelve Days of Christmas list of singers, including **Claire Bent**, **Ruby Ruth George**, **Katie Belknap**, **Jacqueline Dandeneau**, some sisters **Penner**, **James Zeller**, **Matthew Cox** and more.

Around the same time at the Outer Space, there's a farewell show for **Poli-mana** and Jess Carey, aka **Mold**, who are leaving the county for a new horizon. Fellow celebrants include **Fig**, **Sylvie** and

Petal Talk, a botanically named crew of indie folksters making good music. Sliding scale and negotiable \$5-\$10.

OK, two punk shows and one more holiday group jam to finish the menu. The punks are at 8 p.m., with Moss Oak Commons hosting **Image Pit**, **PEST**, **Radical Apes** and **Executive Order** for \$5-\$10 sliding scale, while Siren's Song Tavern has drinking band Olympians **The Smashed Glass** and **Generational Trauma** for \$3. And finally, keyboard wizard **B. Swizlo** presents **A Funky Ass Humboldt Hip Hop Holiday** at Humbrews at 8:30 p.m. Aboard the mothership tonight are supergroup **HOTFOOT** performing the tunes of the late reverend James Brown, along with **DJ Goldylocks** on the ones and twos spinning heat for mic snipers like **Nac One**, **Flo J Simpson**, **RuffIAN** and more. There will also be live art by **DMise** and **Ovr:thr**. Woof, what a night!

Sunday, Winter Solstice

Rounding out the holiday fun before we hit the holy stretch of silent nights, how about a matinee of a classic? The Sundance Ballet Company presents **The Nutcracker** at 2 p.m. at the Van Duzer Theatre. Nothing I write here will do much to help promote something that was famous before I was born and will continue to be so long after I have fallen out of the race, so I'll just note that tickets are priced as follows, \$25 for adults, \$20 if purchased in advance, with \$5 removed from those figures if you are buying for kids 12 and under. Merry Christmas. ●

Collin Yeo (he/him) welcomes the contrast of the darkness of winter and its merry night lights with a spirit that can only truly be appreciated with the expanding gift of astigmatism that each new year brings.

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NCJ CALENDAR

Nightlife

Got a gig or an event? Submit it to calendar@northcoastjournal.com by 5pm Thursday the week before publication. Tickets for shows highlighted in yellow are available at NorthCoastTickets.com. More details at northcoastjournal.com. Shows, times and pricing subject to change by the venue.

VENUE	THURS 12/18	FRI 12/19	SAT 12/20	SUN 12/21	M-T-W 12/22-12/24
ARCATA PLAYHOUSE 1251 Ninth St. (707) 822-1575		After Hours Presents: The Music of Vince Guaraldi 7-9 p.m. \$15-\$30 sliding	Jingle Jam Holiday Benefit 7 p.m. \$20-\$50 sliding		
ARCATA THEATRE LOUNGE 1036 G St., Arcata (707) 822-1220				Elf (2003) (film) 5-8 p.m. \$8, \$12 w/poster	
ARCATA VETERANS HALL 1425 J St.		Jammin Holiday Dance Party 7:30-11 p.m. \$10, free for veterans			
THE BASEMENT 780 Seventh St., Arcata (707) 845-2309	RLAD (jazz fusion) 8 p.m. \$5	Ticket to Ride (tribute to The Beatles) 9 p.m. \$5			
BEAR RIVER CASINO RESORT 11 Bear Paws Way, Loleta (707) 733-9644		Thirsty Bear: DJ Pachanguero (Latin) 9 p.m. Free	Thirsty Bear: DJ Statik/Ugly Sweater Contest & Xmas Party 9 p.m. Free		
BLUE LAKE CASINO WAVE LOUNGE 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake (707) 668-9770		Wave: TBA	Wave: Santa's Twerkshop (DJ dance party & contest) 9 p.m. Free		[M] Wave: Treat Yourself Karaoke 9 p.m. Free, [T] Trivia 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free
CAFE MOKKA 495 J St., Arcata (707) 822-2228			Bosporus (Eastern Mediterranean) 7-10 p.m. Free		
CENTRAL STATION SPORTS BAR 1631 Central Ave., McKville (707) 839-2013		Treat Yourself Entertainment Karaoke 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Free			[M] Pool Tournament 6 p.m.
DOUBLE D STEAK & SEAFOOD 320 Main St., Fortuna (707) 725-3700	Buck Bonne's Krazy Karaoke 6-9 p.m. Free				
THE EUREKA THEATER 612 F St. (707) 442-2970			Classic Holiday: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (1989) (film) 7-10 p.m. \$10, \$5		
FROTH 420 California Ave., Arcata (707) 630-3269					[M] Paranormal Open Mic Night 8 p.m. Free, [T] Open Mic 6-9 p.m. Free, [W] Karaoke Night 7-10 p.m. Free
HAVANA ARCATA 780 Seventh St. (707) 826-0860	DJ Papichulo 9 p.m. Free		Small Panic, Late Night Boxing (indie rock soul) 9 p.m. \$5, NOTAFLOF		
THE HEIGHTS CASINO FIREWATER LOUNGE 27 Scenic Drive, Trinidad (707) 677-3611			DJ Deaf Eye 8 p.m. Free		[T] Karaoke 8 p.m. Free
THE HISTORIC EAGLE HOUSE 139 Second St., Eureka (707) 444-3344		Reel Genius Trivia 6-8 p.m. Free			[T] Blues Fusion Dance 7-9 p.m. \$5-\$15, no one turned away
HUMBOLDT BREWS 856 10th St., Arcata (707) 826-2739	Reel Genius Trivia 6:30 p.m.	Broken Compass Bluegrass 9 p.m. \$20, \$15	B. Swizlo's Mystery Lounge: A Funky Ass Humboldt Hip Hop Holiday 8 p.m. \$10		
KAPTAIN'S QUARTERS 517 F St., Eureka (707) 798-1273		RLAD (jazz fusion) 8 p.m. Free	The Vatcher Brothers 8 p.m. Free		[T] Happy Tripmas Party! 7 p.m. Free
LIL' RED LION COCKTAIL LOUNGE 1506 Fifth St., Eureka (707) 444-1344	"It's A Beautiful Thing" Open Jam (bring band or sit in) 9-11:30 p.m. Free				
THE LOGGER BAR 510 Railroad Ave., Blue Lake (707) 668-5000	The Back Seat Drivers 4-6 p.m., Good 9-11 p.m. Free	Jazz Bros 4-6 p.m., Cowtown Sound 9-11 p.m.	Blue Lake Winter Stories 5-7 p.m., Zach Alder 9-11 p.m.		[T] Festivus 7 p.m.



ARCATA ARTISANS

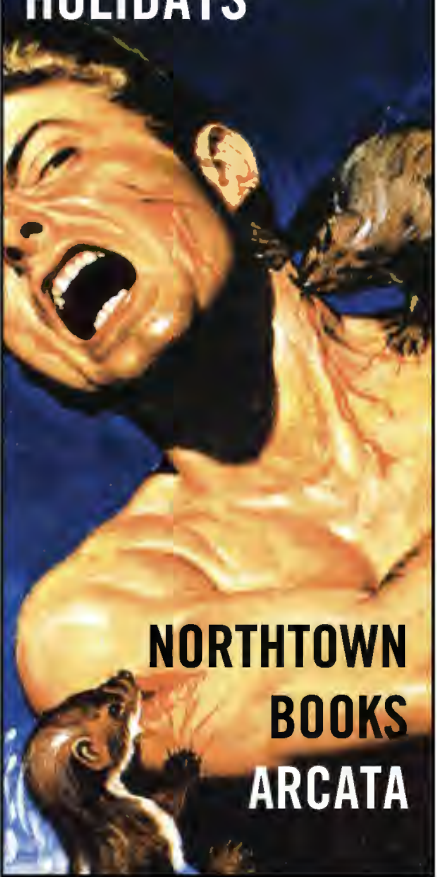
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VENUE	THURS 12/18	FRI 12/19	SAT 12/20	SUN 12/21	M-T-W 12/22-12/24
MATEEL COMMUNITY CENTER 59 Rusk Ln., Redway (707) 923-3368			Hurricane Relief for Jamaica w/ Prezident Brown, Seen-n-Soil, Irie Rockerz, Leaf of Life and more noon-11 p.m. \$20 donation, free for kids 12 and under		
MINIPLEX 401 I St., Arcata (707) 630-5000	G.O.A.T. Karaoke 8:30 p.m. two-drink minimum purchase	Big Mood Queer Night: Sweaters & Leggings Edition 9 p.m. \$5	Club ANTI Karaoke: XXXmas at the Playboy Mansion 9 p.m. \$10	Winter Solstice Karaoke Ball 8 p.m. two-drink minimum	
MOSS OAK COMMONS 1905 Alliance Rd., Arcata		Freq. Night w/Hudson Glover, Luker, Samantha, Aermac 8-7 p.m. \$5-\$10	Image Pit, PEST, Radical Apes, Executive Order 8 p.m. \$5-\$10 sliding scale		
OCEAN GROVE COCKTAIL LOUNGE 480 Patrick's Pt Dr., Trinidad (707) 677-3543					[M] Rudelion DanceHall Mondayz (reggae, dancehall, soca) 8 p.m. \$5
OUTER SPACE ARCATA 837 H St.			Polimana, Mold, Fig, Sylvie, Petal Talk 7 p.m. \$5-\$10		
PASKENTA MAD RIVER BREWING 101 Taylor Way, Blue Lake (707) 668-4151			Dessert First 5:30-7 p.m. Free, Winter Solstice Energetic Cord Cutting and Tarot Event 6:30-8 p.m. Free		
REDWOOD CURTAIN BREWERY MYRTLE AVE. TASTING ROOM. 1595 Myrtle Ave., Eureka, (707) 269-7143	Live Music Thursdays 6-9 p.m. Free				[T] Live Music Tuesdays 6-9 p.m. Free
SAL'S MYRTLEWOOD LOUNGE 1696 Myrtle Ave., Eureka (707) 443-1881				Afternoon Acoustic Jam Session (out back, weather permitting) Free	[T] Acoustic Jam Session (out back, weather permitting) 8 p.m. Free
SAVAGE HENRY COMEDY CLUB 415 Fifth St., Eureka (707) 845-8864	The Deposition 8-10 p.m. \$5	TRVE KVL T 8-10 p.m. \$5	4th Annual Evan Vest's Holiday Spectacular 8-10 p.m. \$10	Sunday Comedy Open Mic 8-10 p.m.	[T] Savage Henryoke 8-10 p.m. Free. [W] Comedy Open Mikey 8-10 p.m. Free
SIREN'S SONG TAVERN 301 Second St., Eureka (707) 599-8986		Halfwing, Good Time Charlies, Widdershins 8 p.m. \$5, NOTAFLOF	The Smashed Glass, Generational Trauma 8 p.m. \$3		
SPEAKEASY 411 Opera Alley, Eureka (707) 444-2244	The Jimmie Lahman Band 7-10 p.m. Free	Friday Night Jazz w/The Opera Alley Cats 8-11 p.m. Free	Jenni and David and the Sweet Soul Band (soul, funk) 8-11 p.m. Free		[T] Tuesday Night Jazz w/The Opera Alley Cats 7-10 p.m. Free
TRINIDAD TOWN HALL 409 Trinity St.			Dave's Holiday Sing-Along Ft. Dave Fleschner, Dan Berman, Josh Kieselhorst, Sebastian Fleschner, Trinidad Kid 7 p.m. donation		
VISTA DEL MAR 91 Commercial St., Eureka (707) 443-3770	Treat Yourself Entertainment Karaoke 9 p.m.-midnight Free				
THE WILD HARE TAVERN 915 H St., Arcata (707) 499-2468		Barking Dogma 8-11 p.m. \$5			

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Calendar

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File

Ferndale is cow country, so the town does Christmas accordingly. The **Lighted Tractor Parade** rumbles down **Main Street** on **Sunday, Dec. 21**, with tractors and tractor-drawn wagon floats lining up at **4:30 p.m.** for judging at **5 p.m.**, before snapping the reins at **6 p.m.** (free). Come early for parking and a good spot along the parade route. It's family-friendly seasonal sparkle with mud on its boots.



File

Rooted in love for Jamaica, the Jerk Kitchen and Rastafarian Headquarters, along with Black Humboldt, present **Hurricane Relief for Jamaica** on **Saturday, Dec. 20**, from **noon to 11 p.m.** at the **Mateel Community Center** (\$20 donation, free for kids 12 and under). This all-ages benefit features live performances by Prezident Brown & I-Sound Band, plus Seed n Soil, Irie Rockerz, Leaf of Life and more. There will also be DJs, food (expect Jerk Kitchen specialties) and beverages, kids' activities and face painting. Donations at the door can also include nonperishable food, clothing and supplies.

18 Thursday

ART

Figure Drawing at Synopsis. 7-9 p.m. Synopsis Collective, 1675 Union St., Eureka. With a live model. Bring your own art supplies. Call to contact Clint. \$5. synopsisperformance.com. (707) 362-9392.

SPOKEN WORD

Reworded Open Mic Night. Third Thursday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Phatsy Kline's Parlor Lounge, 139 Second St., Eureka. Poetry workshop at 5 p.m. Open mic from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free. events@historiceaglehouse.com. historiceaglehouse.com. (707) 444-3344.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sparkling Lights Spectacular. 6-9 p.m. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, 1250 Fifth St., Ferndale. Twice the length of last year's attraction. Enjoy both driving and walking tours through a dazzling showcase of lights. humboldtcountyfair.org.

Winter Fair Ice Skating Rink. 2026. Belotti Hall, 1250 Fifth St., Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale. Skating fun for all ages on real ice. Through Jan. 11. For more information, visit humboldtcountyfair.org. humboldtcountyfair.org.

MEETINGS

Free Spanish/English Language Exchange. 4:30-5:15 p.m. College of the Redwoods (Eureka Downtown site), 527 D St. Improve your Spanish and English language skills while meeting new people. *Mejorar tus conocimientos de inglés mientras conoces gente nueva.* Free. jonathan-maulllo@redwoods.edu. instagram.com/crmultilingual. (707) 476-4527.

SPORTS

Lost Coast Cornhole League Night. Third Thursday of every month, 6-10 p.m. Fortuna Veterans Hall/Memorial Building, 1426 Main St. Monthly league nights are open to all ages and skill levels. Registration opens at 5 p.m. Games at 6 p.m. Different format each week. Bags are

available to borrow. Drinks available at the Canteen. Outside food OK. \$15. mike@buffaloboard.com.

19 Friday

ART

Life Drawing Sessions. 10 a.m.-noon. Redwood Art Association Gallery, 603 F St., Eureka. Hosted by Joyce Jonté. \$10, cash or Venmo.

Winter Open Studio. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Winter Open Studio, 618 F Street, Eureka. Arcata artists Patricia Sennot and Libby George welcome visitors to their new studio to view paintings, handmade prints, watercolors, etchings, fine art reproductions and greeting cards. Free. psennott@gmail.com. instagram.com/patriciassennot. (707) 496-1922.

MUSIC

After Hours Presents: The Music of Vince Guaraldi. 7-9 p.m. Arcata Playhouse, 1251 Ninth St. Led by drummer Ramsey Isaacs, with Matthew Seno on piano and Lee Phillips on bass performs Guaraldi's work from Charlie Brown themes to soulful, swinging deep cuts. Special guests James Zeller on trombone and Miles Schmidt on tap. \$15-\$30 sliding. ramseyisaacsmusic@gmail.com. playhousearts.org/event-details/after-hours-presents-the-music-of-vince-guaraldi. (707) 601-8333.

THEATER

The Wizard of Oz. 7:30 p.m. Ferndale Repertory Theatre, 447 Main St. Stage adaptation of L. Frank Baum's beloved tale of the magical Land of Oz, featuring the movie's musical score. All ages. \$22, \$20 senior/student/child. ferndalerep.org.

EVENTS

In Our Nature - An Evening Celebrating Environmental Education. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Redwood Playhouse, 286 Sprowel Creek Road, Garberville. Friends of the Lost Coast host a screening of the documentary about three deeply rooted stories across America. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with an open-house, live music by



Sundance Ballet Co.'s Nutcracker.
Photo by Tina's Photography

Holiday magic takes center stage this weekend with two jolly dance productions for all ages.

The Sundance Ballet Co. presents its 13th annual **Nutcracker** ballet at the **Van Duzer Theatre** on **Saturday, Dec. 20**, at **2 and 7 p.m.** and **Sunday, Dec. 21**, at **2 p.m.** (\$25, \$20 children, \$20, \$15 children advance). This classic production features guest artists Magdalena Horowitz and Gary Williams as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier, along with students and company members from the Dance Scene Studio. Meanwhile, **Candy Cane Lane!** from **No Limits Dance Academy**, an original holiday show, lights up the **Eureka High School Auditorium** on **Saturday, Dec. 20**, at **6 p.m.** and **Sunday, Dec. 21**, at **2 p.m.** with colorful costumes, imaginative choreography and friendly seasonal cheer (\$22+).

The Cronies, warm winter beverages and Oakfire Pizza out front. info@lostcoast.org. lostcoast.org/event/in-our-nature-film-redwood-playhouse.

FOR KIDS

Kid's Night at the Museum. 5:30-8 p.m. Redwood Discovery Museum, 612 G St., Eureka. Drop off your 3.5-12 year old for interactive exhibits, science experiments, crafts and games, exploring the planetarium, playing in the water table or jumping into the soft blocks. \$17-\$20. info@discovery-museum.org. discovery-museum.org/classesprograms.html. (707) 443-9694.

Weekly Preschool Story Time. Eureka Library, 1313 Third St. Talk, sing, read, write and play together in the children's room. For children 2 to 6 years old with their caregivers. Other family members are welcome to join in the fun. Free. manthony@co.humboldt.ca.us. humlib.org. (707) 269-1910.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sparkling Lights Spectacular. 6-9 p.m. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, 1250 Fifth St., Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Jammin Holiday Dance Party. 7:30-11 p.m. Arcata Veterans Hall, 1425 J St. Live music with the College of the Redwoods Jazz Band. Beginner swing dance lesson included at 7:30 p.m. Music and dancing at 8:30 p.m. \$10, free for veterans. post274@arcataveteranshall.org. facebook.com/events/1795364408533166. (707) 616-8484.

Last Christmas Tree Season. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ben Hurd's Christmas Tree Farm, 447 Hilton Lane, Arcata. Ben's Bunch hosts a final season for Christmas trees, benefiting Hospice of Humboldt. facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069392124783.

Winter Fair Ice Skating Rink. 2026. Belotti Hall, 1250 Fifth St., Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

ETC

Giving the Gift of Warmth. 4-6 p.m. Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J St. Donate new winter essentials: beanies,

gloves, socks, underwear, sweatshirts and other cozy basics to help neighbors stay safe and warm this winter. Drop off between 4-6 p.m. eurekawomansclub.org.

Public Skate. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fortuna Skating Rink, Rohner Park. Roll over to the Fireman's Pavilion in Rohner Park. Public Skate sessions may close early if there is no one in attendance. \$5.50 ages 6 and older, \$3.50 ages 5 and younger, bring skates for a \$0.50 off (rules online), \$2 non-skater minor. friendlyfortuna.com/departments/parks_recreation.

20 Saturday

ART

Fire Arts Holiday Pottery and Fused Glass Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire Arts Center, 520 South G St., Arcata. Browse work by members, students and community artists, and support local art. director@fireartsarcata.com. fireartsarcata.com. (707) 826-1445.

DANCE

The Nutcracker Ballet. 2 & 7 p.m. Van Duzer Theatre, Cal Poly Humboldt, Arcata. The Sundance Ballet Company's 13th annual holiday classic, features guest artists Magdalena Horowitz and Gary Williams from the Bay Area as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier along with students and company members from the Dance Scene Studio. \$25, \$20 children, \$20, \$15 children advance.

MOVIES

Classic Holiday: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. 7-10 p.m. Eureka Theater, 612 F St. The Chevy Chase holiday fiasco. \$5, \$10. info@theeurekatheater.com. facebook.com/events/884375487569021.

Holiday Matinee: Home Alone. 2-4:30 p.m. Eureka Theater, 612 F St. Get ready to cheer for Kevin McCallister as he defends his house from the Wet Bandits in this hilarious and heartwarming holiday riot. \$10, free for kids. info@theeurekatheater.com. facebook.com/events/884375487569021.

Continued on next page »

CALENDAR

Continued from previous page

MUSIC

Hurricane Relief for Jamaica. 12-11 p.m. Mateel Community Center, 59 Rusk Lane, Redway. Featuring live performance by Prezident Brown, Seen-n-Soil, Irie Rockerz, Leaf of Life and DJs Just One, Deaf Eye, Tri-King, Abba Roots. Kids area, food and beverages. \$20 donation, free for kids 12 and under. mateel.org.

THEATER

The Wizard of Oz. 2 p.m. Ferndale Repertory Theatre, 447 Main St. See Dec. 19 listing.

FOOD

Arcata Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Arcata Plaza, Ninth and G streets. Year round, offering fresh produce, meat, fish, cheese, eggs, bread, flowers and more. Live music and hot food vendors. No pets, but trained, ADA-certified, service animals welcome. CalFresh EBT customers receive a market match at every farmers market. info@northcoastgrowersassociation.org. north-coastgrowersassociation.org. (707) 441-9999.

Music and Makers - McKinleyville Location. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Eureka Natural Foods, McKinleyville, 2165 Central Ave. Live music, samples/demos, pint specials. Free. marketing@eurekanaturalfoods.com.

Music and Makers - Eureka Location. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Eureka Natural Foods, 1450 Broadway. Live music, samples/demos, pint specials. Free. marketing@eureka-naturalfoods.com. eurekanaturalfoods.com.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sparkling Lights Spectacular. 6-9 p.m. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, 1250 Fifth St., Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Breakfast with Santa. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Dow's Prairie Grange Hall, 3995 Dow's Prairie Road, McKinleyville. Have breakfast with Santa, then shop for those last-minute holiday gifts. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., breakfast at 9 a.m. dowsprairiegrange.org.

Chanukah Anew. 5-8 p.m. Redwood Raks World Dance Studio, 824 L St., Arcata. Celebrate Chanukah with beautiful music and movement led by Rabbi Naomi Steinberg, Berel Alexander and Robin Wolff with the Redwood Community Peace Choir and Dark-of-the-Moon Band. Doors at 5 p.m. Candle-lighting and singing at 5:30 p.m. Bring your menorah. A fundraiser for Food for People and the Orchard of Abraham's Children, providing bilingual, peace-focused schools for Palestinian and Israeli children. Suggested donation: \$10 individual, \$25 family. rabbinaomisteinberg@gmail.com. redwoodraks.com. (707) 845-1946.

Dave's Holiday Sing-Along. 7 p.m. Trinidad Town Hall, 409 Trinity St. Featuring Dave Fleschner, Dan Berman, Josh Kieselhorst, Sebastian Fleschner and Trinidad Kid. Doors 6:30 p.m. A Trinidad Museum benefit. donation.fleschtonerecords@gmail.com.

The Gnome Adventure. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. & 4-8 p.m. Blue Lake Roller Rink, 312 S. Railroad St. An enchanting miniature wonderland. \$5. jharmony@coastalgrovecharter.org. (707) 825-8804 ex. 311.

Holiday Craft Fair and Gift Wrapping. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Humboldt Grange #501, 5845 Humboldt Hill Road, Eureka. Handcrafted items, direct-marketing goods and services, and items from lotion to potions, jams and more.

Holiday Tea with A Company of Voices. 2 p.m. Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J St. An annual tradition of tea with holiday music, from nostalgic to amusing songs. Designated tables for kids. \$25, \$15 children 7 and up \$15 w/ adult ticket. eurekawomansclub.org.

Last Christmas Tree Season. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ben Hurd's Christmas Tree Farm, 447 Hilton Lane, Arcata. See Dec. 19 listing.

Open House at Alchemy Distillery. 12-6 p.m. Alchemy Distillery Tasting Room, 324 South G St., Arcata. Stop by any time for cocktails, a personal tasting flight, locally sourced gifts including Hum Yum bourbon caramel, tees and hoodies with Duane Flatmo's artwork, hats, candles, stickers and gift cards. Free. alchemydistillery@gmail.com. alchemydistillery.com. (707) 822-8013.

Winter Fair Ice Skating Rink. 2026. Belotti Hall, 1250 Fifth St., Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Zoo Lights. -Jan. 4, 5-8 p.m. Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W St., Eureka. Take a stroll on an illuminated, directional pathway through the zoo that features holiday displays, a beautifully lit Redwood Sky Walk and Humboldt's tallest living holiday tree. Every night (except for Christmas) through Jan. 4. Adverse weather may require closure at any time. \$5. redwoodzoo.org.

OUTDOORS

FOAM Marsh Tour. 2 p.m. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary Interpretive Center, 569 S. G St. Friends of the Arcata Marsh sponsors a tour of the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet leader Paul Johnson in the lobby for a 90-minute, rain-or-shine walk that will focus on "the small things along the trails that people often miss." Free. (707) 826-2359.

Forest Restoration at Rohner Park. Third Saturday of every month, 9-11 a.m. Fortuna Firemen's Pavilion, 9 Park St. Remove invasive English ivy and French broom. Tools and gloves available but you are encouraged to bring your own. Free winds or heavy rain cancels. Light snack provided. Free. unde1942@gmail.com. (707) 601-6753.

SPORTS

Fortuna Recreational Volleyball. 10 a.m.-noon. Fortuna High School, 379 12th St. Ages 45 and up. Call Dolly. In the Girls Gym. (707) 725-3709.

ETC

The Bike Library. 12-4 p.m. The Bike Library, 1286 L St., Arcata. Hands-on repair lessons and general maintenance, used bicycles and parts for sale. Donations of parts and bicycles gladly accepted. arcatabikelibrary@riseup.net.

Labyrinth Walk. Third Saturday of every month, 2-5 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church, 1428 H St., Eureka. An ancient form of walking meditation along a circular winding path leading to a center and back out to the threshold. Drop in for a reflective walk in a serene environment. Simple instructions and info about labyrinth history will be given. The theme is "Walk in Winter Solstice Wonder." Free. (707) 442-1797.

Public Skate. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Fortuna Skating Rink, Rohner Park. See Dec. 19 listing.

Thursday-Friday-Saturday Canteen. 3-9 p.m. Redwood Empire VFW Post 1872, 1018 H St., Eureka. Enjoy a cold beverage in the canteen with comrades. Play pool or darts. If you're a veteran, this place is for you. Free. PearceHansen999@outlook.com. (707) 443-5331.

21 Sunday

ART

Fire Arts Holiday Pottery and Fused Glass Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire Arts Center, 520 South G St., Arcata. See Dec. 20 listing.

Winter Open Studio. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Winter Open Studio, 618 F Street, Eureka. See Dec. 19 listing.

BOOKS

Silent Book Club at Redwood Curtain. 1-3 p.m. Redwood Curtain Brewery Myrtle town Tasting Room, 1595 Myrtle Avenue, Suite B, Eureka. Bring your current read and sink into your book. Typical meetings include a brief introduction, an hour of reading and a chance for light (and optional) discussion. silentbookclubrc@gmail.com. bookclubs.com/silent-book-club-at-redwood-curtain/join.

DANCE

Candy Cane Lane. 2-4:30 p.m. Eureka High School Auditorium, 1915 J St. No Limits Dance Academy's original holiday production. \$22+. amethyst.nlda@gmail.com. nolimitsdanceacademy.com/candy-cane-lane-2025. (707) 825-0922.

The Nutcracker Ballet. 2 p.m. Van Duzer Theatre, Cal Poly Humboldt, Arcata. See Dec. 20 listing.

MOVIES

Elf (2003). 5-8 p.m. Arcata Theatre Lounge, 1036 G St. Pre-show 5 p.m. Movie at 6 p.m. Oversized elf Buddy seeks out his roots in Manhattan. \$8, \$12 w/ poster. info@arcatatheatre.com. facebook.com/events/830108262743550. (707) 613-3030.

MUSIC

McKinleyville Community Choir. 3 p.m. Azalea Hall, 1620 Pickett Road, McKinleyville. Add some joyful music to your holiday season. Free, donations welcome. mckinleyvillecsd.com/azalea-hall. 3-5 p.m. Azalea Hall, 1620 Pickett Road, McKinleyville. Celebrate winter and the holiday season with songs like "Bonse Aba," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Little Drummer Boy" and others. Refreshments available and donations accepted. Free. mckinleyvillecsd.com/azalea-hall.

Sweet Harmony. 4-5:30 p.m. United Methodist Church of the Joyful Healer, 1944 Central Ave., McKinleyville. Women singing four-part harmony a capella. Now welcoming new members with all levels of experience. . (707) 845-1959.

Wine and Jazz. Third Sunday of every month, 3-5 p.m. Morris Graves Museum of Art, 636 F St., Eureka. Monthly performance series highlighting Humboldt County performers. Music by Nice n' Easy. Regular admission. humboldtarts.org.

THEATER

The Wizard of Oz. 2 p.m. Ferndale Repertory Theatre, 447 Main St. See Dec. 19 listing.

FOR KIDS

Mini Masters Program. Third Sunday of every month, noon. Morris Graves Museum of Art, 636 F St., Eureka. Families participate together in this art-making workshop linked to the Storytime book. Projects that inspire literacy, creativity and community geared toward children 2-5 years, but all children are welcome. All kids receive a free book. Come and hear *Harold Loves His Woolly Hat*. humboldtarts.org.

FOOD

Food Not Bombs. 4 p.m. Arcata Plaza, Ninth and G streets. Hot food for everyone. Mostly vegan and organic and always delicious. Free.

Polenta & Stew Dinner. 4-6 p.m. Ferndale Portuguese Hall, Fifth Street and Ocean Avenue. Prepared by the Vevoda family. No-host bar. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased at Ring's Pharmacy. Proceeds raised for Assumption Catholic Church. \$25, \$15 kids 10-15.

GARDEN

Volunteer Workday. 10 a.m.-noon. Trinidad Museum, 400 Janis Court. Help maintain the native plant garden

located behind the museum and library. Serious rain cancels.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sparkling Lights Spectacular. 6-9 p.m. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, 1250 Fifth St., Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Last Christmas Tree Season. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ben Hurd's Christmas Tree Farm, 447 Hilton Lane, Arcata. See Dec. 19 listing.

Lighted Tractor Parade. 4:30-7 p.m. Ferndale Main Street, Ferndale. Holiday scenes on decorated tractors and tractor-drawn wagons parade up Main Street. Free.

Winter Fair Ice Skating Rink. 2026. Belotti Hall, 1250 Fifth St., Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Zoo Lights. 5-8 p.m. Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W St., Eureka. See Dec. 20 listing.

OUTDOORS

Dune Restoration Volunteer Days. Third Sunday of every month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Ma-le'l Dunes North, Young Lane, Arcata. Help restore the biodiversity of the coastal dunes. No experience necessary. Snacks and tools provided. Meet at the parking lot a few minutes before 10 a.m. dante@friendsofthedunes.org. friendsofthedunes.org/dert-days. (707) 444-1397.

Eureka Waterfront Guided Birding Trip. Third Sunday of every month, 9-11 a.m. Eureka Waterfront, Foot of Del Norte Street. With leader Ralph Bucher. This relatively urban trail offers the potential to observe species abundance and diversity. Email to sign up. Free. thebook@reninet.com. rras.org.

ETC

Public Skate. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Fortuna Skating Rink, Rohner Park. See Dec. 19 listing.

22 Monday

ART

Fire Arts Holiday Pottery and Fused Glass Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire Arts Center, 520 South G St., Arcata. See Dec. 20 listing.

Life Drawing Sessions. 6-8 p.m. Redwood Art Association Gallery, 603 F St., Eureka. See Dec. 19 listing.

FOOD

Harvest Box Deliveries. Multi-farm-style CSA boxes with a variety of seasonal fruits and veggies, all GMO-free and grown locally. Serving Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville, Trinidad and Blue Lake. \$25/box, \$13 for EBT customers. northcoastgrowersassociation.org/harvestbox.html.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Winter Fair Ice Skating Rink. 2026. Belotti Hall, 1250 Fifth St., Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Zoo Lights. 5-8 p.m. Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W St., Eureka. See Dec. 20 listing.

ETC

Homesharing Info Session. 9:30-10 a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m. This informational Zoom session will go over the steps and safeguards of Area 1 Agency on Aging's matching process and the different types of homeshare partnerships. Email for the link. Free. homeshare@alaa.org. alaa.org/homesharing. (707) 442-3763.

23 Tuesday

ART

Fire Arts Holiday Pottery and Fused Glass Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire Arts Center, 520 South G St., Arcata. See Dec. 20 listing.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Winter Fair Ice Skating Rink. 2026. Belotti Hall, 1250 Fifth St., Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Zoo Lights. 5-8 p.m. Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W St., Eureka. See Dec. 20 listing.

MEETINGS

Humboldt Cribbage Club Tournament. 6:15-9 p.m. Moose Lodge, 4328 Campton Road, Eureka. Weekly six-game cribbage tournament for experienced players. Inexperienced players may watch, learn and play on the side. Moose dinner available at 5:30 p.m. \$3-\$8. 31for14@gmail.com. (707) 599-4605.

Humboldt Stamp Collectors' Club. Fourth Tuesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Humboldt Senior Resource Center, 1910 California St., Eureka. New collectors and experts welcome. Learn about stamps, collecting and see local experts in stamps share their collections. Free. humstamclub@gmail.com.

ETC

English Express: An English Language Class for Adults. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Build English language confidence in ongoing online and in-person classes. All levels and first languages welcome. Join anytime. Pre-registration not required. Free. english-expressempowered.com. (707) 443-5021.

24 Wednesday

ART

Fire Arts Holiday Pottery and Fused Glass Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fire Arts Center, 520 South G St., Arcata. See Dec. 20 listing.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Sparkling Lights Spectacular. 6-9 p.m. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, 1250 Fifth St., Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Winter Fair Ice Skating Rink. 2026. Belotti Hall, 1250 Fifth St., Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Ferndale. See Dec. 18 listing.

Zoo Lights. 5-8 p.m. Sequoia Park Zoo, 3414 W St., Eureka. See Dec. 20 listing.

MEETINGS

Humboldt Health Care for All. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. Virtual World, Internet, Online. Humboldt Health Care for All/Physicians for a National Health Program meet by Zoom. Email for meeting link. healthcareforallhumboldt@gmail.com.

25 Thursday

OUTDOORS

Annual Christmas Walk at the Arcata Marsh. 10-11:30 a.m. Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary Interpretive Center, 569 S. G St. Join leader Paul Wilson and Friends of the Arcata Marsh for a 1.5- to 2-hour, rain-or-shine leg-stretcher. Meet out front. (The building will be closed if no volunteer is found to staff between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.) Free. info@arcatamarshfriends.org. (707) 826-2359.



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Mother Christmas

Oh. What. Fun. and
If I Had Legs I Would Kick You

By John J. Bennett

screens@northcoastjournal.com

OH. WHAT. FUN. I probably don't need to defend my undimming affection for Christmas movies, but I am of a defensive, decking-the-halls extraction, so here we find ourselves. I am as aware of all the hypocrisy and bad faith action and indelicate consumerism that occludes the holiday as anyone. And I don't really have any truck with the divinity of the Christ, even if I tend to stick to some of the how-tos we attribute to him. In spite of it all, though — or maybe, ever the contrarian, because of it — this holiday season helps to induce a sense of calm in me. Either from nostalgia or constant seeking of respite, there is a relief, a restfulness that I anticipate for much of the year. And so, setting aside my usual bitchery and circumspection, every year we trim the tree and get out my Christmas dishes (yeah, I said it), make the lists and check them twice. And watch Christmas movies, both tried-and-true and newly minted, if they are to be found.

There are limits, of course, as I unsurprisingly tend to prefer my watching schedule peppered with violence, pratfalls and malaise rescued (usually) by the better angels of the human spirit. The recent deluge of Hallmark/Lifetime/Netflix pabulum isn't really gonna cut it. Frosty can be as hot as hell but is he digging glass out of his bloody feet? I thought not.

Michael Showalter's (*The Baxter*, 2005; *The Idea of You*, 2024) latest may not shoulder its way onto my top however-many list, but it does both service and subvert many/most of the tropes of the new American Christmas canon, and by that standard alone it is worth the 106 minutes of my time it politely demands.

Holiday superlative Claire Clauser (Michelle Pfeiffer) and her dopey, if well-meaning husband Nick (Denis Leary) will, once again, welcome home their adult children for a resplendent suburban Houston Christmas. But as is and will ever

be, the family is too caught up in their own mid-tier personal bullshit to notice Mom's herculean efforts to make goddamn miracles. And so, after an inverted *Home-Along*-ing, Claire finds herself far from home and hearth, trying to give herself the gift she actually wants.

Having grown acquainted with Showalter's work decades ago, with *The State*, *Wet Hot American Summer* and *Stella* as the primary texts, it's a little disconcerting to have watched him grow into a solid, if kind of invisible, mainstream stalwart. In our youth — his and mine, I guess — he was perhaps the most buffoonish among ingenious troupes of buffoons, a physical comedian nonpareil with no evident sense of self-reverence. Now, though, he frequently brings us solid, occasionally stolid, mid-range crowd-pleasers directed with workmanlike precision and mostly absent the absurdity and cynicism with which we fell in love. It's an example of learning to grow without growing apart.

Oh. What. Fun. is arguably most subversive in its refusal to subvert, but it does have as its thesis a celebration of the uncelebrated, an ostensible raising-up of the long-suffering, ever-comforting moms, those soldiers of joy whose dedication to the mission is strongest tested this time of year. And so, while it's not destined to live among the classics in my heavy rotation, it's sweet and funny and suitably designed enough to spend an evening with. PG13. 106M. PRIME.

IF I HAD LEGS I'D KICK YOU. And here we have another, very different story of a harried mother, perhaps not one around which the relations should gather of a holiday's eve.

Written and directed by Mary Bronstein,



How it started ...

Oh. What. Fun.



... and how it's going.

If I Had Legs I Would Kick You

of the Safdie/Brownsteins, *If I Had Legs* details the unraveling of an unnamed protagonist (the credits call her Linda, but I didn't catch it in context), played by Rose Byrne, charged with caring for an almost entirely unseen elementary-school-aged daughter suffering from some undescribed wasting condition that requires a feeding tube while her mostly unseen husband — some sort of boat captain — phones in from afar to offer little beyond chastisements.

Forced to leave the family's apartment after an abrupt flood, Linda and child take up residence in a questionable motel, where Mom subsists mostly on bottles of wine and pinner spliffs, drawing ever closer to her own emotional undoing. A therapist herself, she struggles in her relationship with her own mental health provider (played with astounding adroitness by Conan O'Brien) and with her patients, one of whom abandons her baby on Linda's beleaguered watch.

Like so many A24 offerings, *If I Had Legs* uses the audio cues and cutting techniques of classic horror to introduce an enveloping atmosphere of dread and unease into what is essentially a domestic drama. But thanks in large part to the always-great Byrne, it is buoyed by occasional flashes of dark humor, perfectly timed outbursts and exclamations that lend both naturalism and elevation to the proceedings. R. 113M. PRIME. ●

John J. Bennett (*he/him*) is a movie nerd who loves a good car chase.

NOW PLAYING

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH. Na'vi-on-Na'vi violence in the latest installment of James Cameron's sci-fi action franchise. PG13. 195M. BROADWAY, MINOR.

DAVID. Animated Old Testament tale about a shepherd who beans a giant with a rock. PG. 115M. BROADWAY.

ELLA MCCAY. Comedy-drama about a newly elected governor (Emma Mackey) with a complicated family. PG13. 115M. BROADWAY.

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S 2. Sequel to the Chuck E. Cheese-esque animatronic horror. PG13. 104M. BROADWAY.

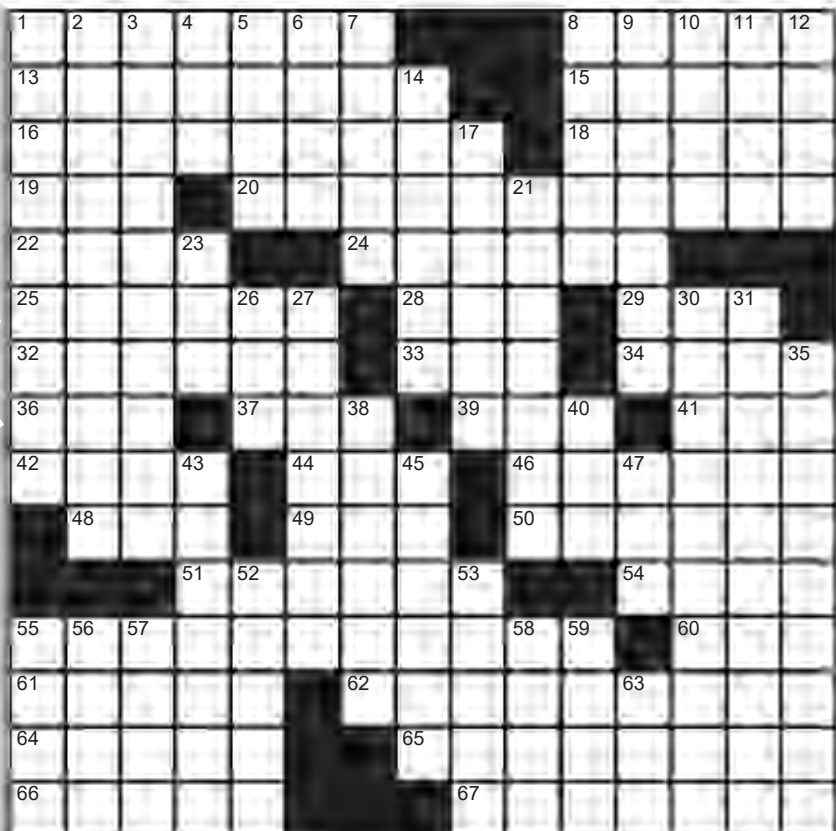
THE HOUSEMAID. Amanda Seyfried and Sydney Sweeney in a thriller about weird dynamics with the help. R. 131M. BROADWAY.

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SEARCH FOR SQUAREPANTS. Your favorite boxy hero takes on the Flying Dutchman's ghost. PG. 96M. BROADWAY (3D).

WICKED: FOR GOOD. Elphaba and Glinda reunite from opposite sides of the yellow brick tracks to save Oz in the sequel. PG. 137M. BROADWAY, MINOR.

ZOOTOPIA 2. Ginnifer Goodwin and Jason Bateman return to voice the rabbit and fox crimefighting duo in the animated comedy adventure. PG. 108M. BROADWAY, MINOR.

For showtimes, visit catheaters.com and minortheatre.com.



THE FREEMIX

ANSWERS NEXT WEEK!

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ACROSS

1. It's represented by an octothorpe
 8. "Count me out"
 13. Slow cuisine?
 15. Apres-ski drink
 16. Laugh during a monologue?
 18. "Crying in ____: A Memoir" (2021 Michelle Zauner book)
 19. 9 of 12, for short
 20. Printouts
 22. It's somewhere below 2 or 3
 24. Corrida creature
 25. Like some key soccer shots
 28. Vacuum-seal, as a steak, maybe
 29. ____ Grand (David Copperfield's Vegas venue)
 32. Quarters sharer
 33. Is being awful

online?

34. Fireplace residue
 36. Old United rival
 37. Official
 39. What rappers rock
 41. Pt. of some three-day weekends
 42. Bangers
 44. Lobbyist gp.
 46. Harem ____ (Toronto hard rock band, not to be confused with an Elvis film)
 48. Deep-fried general
 49. Hamburger complaint?
 50. Screen part
 51. "Let's be honest"
 54. Dr. ____ Skoda of the "Law & Order" franchise
 55. Go for a spare?
 60. "Alias" equivalent
 61. Fuming

62. Streamline, in a way
 64. Billiards bounce
 65. Meme caption once described as "arguably the most loathed Far Side strip ever"

66. Performs excellently
 67. Highly abbreviated sign-off

DOWN

1. Surname of three acting brothers
 2. Within human discovery
 3. Blame bearers
 4. "I doubt it!"
 5. Corner
 6. Title for a Turkish military leader
 7. Lose it
 8. Blood of Greek

9. Knit hat toppers
 10. Palm fruit
 11. Miffed
 12. H.S. seniors' exams
 14. "There She Goes" band
 17. Sketcher's eraser
 21. Live in harmony
 23. Day, in Hebrew
 26. What some filters filter
 27. Actor who plays villainous leader McCone in 2025's "The Running Man"
 30. Follow the first part of an itinerary, perhaps
 31. With higher chances
 35. Photo that takes a while to capture
 38. Surfaces
 40. XLI times V

43. Plushie for the little ones
 45. President of France, 1995-2007
 47. "All the Devils ____ Here" (2025 film)
 52. Attention-getting noises
 53. Vulcan on "Star Trek: Voyager"
 55. Camera roll contents
 56. ____ history
 57. "Trooper" prefix
 58. "Eye of ____ and toe of frog ..."
 59. "____ & Kim" (2000s Australian sitcom with a failed U.S. remake)
 63. World Series winners in 2004 or 2005, briefly

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS ALL IN ORDER

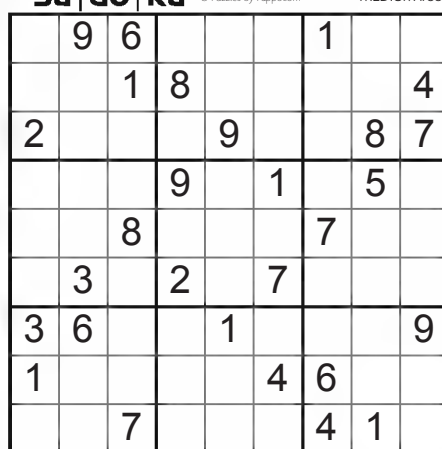


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MEDIUM #88



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ALCHEMY OF RHYTHM STUDY GROUPS BEGIN JANUARY 2026! Learn a new instrument in a slow-burn, small group, setting. Livestream/Recorded! Drums provided! No experience necessary! Hosted in McKinleyville. Visit AlchemyOfRhythm.MyMusic-Staff.com Email AlchemyOfRhythm@TutaNota.com to sign up

CHORUS AUDITIONS WITH THE EUREKA

SYMPHONY. Sing in Brahms' Requiem May 29 & 30. Auditions Dec. 6 & 7, Jan. 17 & 18. For details visit EurekaSymphony.org.

VIOLIN - FIDDLE - TRUMPET - GUITAR LESSONS
 - COACHING - \$40(30M) ROB DIGGINS - (707) 845-1788

Spiritual

EVOLUTIONARY TAROT ONGOING ZOOM CLASSES, PRIVATE MENTORSHIPS AND READINGS. Carolyn Ayres. 442-4240 www.tarotofbecoming.com carolyn@tarotofbecoming.com

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HWMA maintains a stock of recycling bins that we loan out for free to local event coordinators. We'll also provide the bags for the Clearstream bins for free.

Call or email us for details:

268-8680 or programs@hwma.net

Humboldt Waste Management Authority
 1059 W. Hawthorne St. Eureka
www.hwma.net

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE

is hereby given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code. Property will be sold via an online auction at www.StorageAuctions.com. Auction bidding will begin at 10:00 AM on January 2nd, 2026 and will close at or after 1:00 PM on January 6th, 2026 at which time the auction will be completed and the high bidder will be determined. The property will be available for pick up where said property has been stored and which is located at Airport Road Storage, LLC, 500/1000 Airport Road Fortuna, CA 95540 County of Humboldt, State of California. (707)725-1234

E39 JJ Bardin
D59 Kylie Bones
B181 Callie Buck
D4 Spring Darling
B148 Miriam Faith Holliman
B145 John Ireland
B175 Aicelynd Massey
D64 Karla Moreno-Silva
F99 Makayla Mullins
F10 Quynh Pham
B59 Daniel Scriver
Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of a settlement between owner and obligated party. Please refer to www.StorageAuctions.com for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process. Dated this 15th day of December, 2025

12/18, 12/25 (25-498)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

Jack Edward Sanford aka John Edward Sanford
CASE NO. PR2500249
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Jack Edward Sanford aka John Edward Sanford

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Petitioner, Kimberly Sanford In the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt. The petition for probate requests that Kimberly Sanford be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt, 825 Fifth Street, Eureka, in Dept.: 4

For information on how to appear remotely for your hearing, please visit <https://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov/> IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER: Jocelyn M. Godinho, Esq
317 3rd St, Suite 15
Eureka, CA 95501
Filed December 9, 2025
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Elizabeth Bernice McEntire
CASE NO. CV2502590
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH ST.
EUREKA, CA. 95501
PETITION OF: Elizabeth Bernice McEntire
for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name Elizabeth Bernice McEntire to Proposed Name Ellie Fae McEntire
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: January 23, 2026
Time: 8:30 am, Dept. 4
For information on how to appear re-

motely for your hearing, please visit <https://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov/> SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH STREET
EUREKA, CA 95501
Date: December 5, 2025
Filed: December 5, 2025
/s/ Timothy A. Canning
Judge of the Superior Court
12/18, 12/25, 1/1, 1/8 (25-496)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00613

The following person is doing Business as
Advanced Display & Signs
2800 Hubbard Lane
Eureka, CA 95503
Humboldt
North Star Design LLC
CA B20250340446
2800 Hubbard Lane
Eureka, CA 95503
The business is conducted by a limited liability company. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 11/01/2025. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Jason Jordan, Owner-Member by JC, Deputy Clerk
11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 (25-482)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00605

The following person is doing Business as
Gross Building Ritz Building
Humboldt
427 F Street #216
Eureka, CA 95501
Daniel & Jayne Olivier Trust
1830 Olivier Rd
McKinleyville, CA 95519
The business is conducted by a trust. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 6/24/99. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Jayne Olivier, Trustee by JR, Deputy Clerk
11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 (25-483)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00616

The following person is doing Business as
Ampt Skate Shop
Humboldt
1040 H Street
Arcata, CA 95521
Russell R George
1040 H St
Arcata, CA 95521
The business is conducted by an Individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 11/26/25.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Russell R George, Owner This November 26, 2025 by SG, Deputy Clerk
12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 12/25 (25-486)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00614

The following person is doing Business as
Breathe for Simon Vacation Rentals Humboldt
21 Shaw Ave
Ferndale, CA 95536
2135 B Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Todd D Mickalowski
21 Shaw Ave
Ferndale, CA 95536
The business is conducted by a married couple. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 11/15/25. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Todd Mickalowski, Co-Owner This November 20, 2025 by SG, Deputy Clerk
12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 12/25 (25-487)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00597

The following person is doing Business as
Hustlin Threads
Humboldt
2730 Hubbard Lane
Eureka, CA 95501
Sara Bullock
2730 Hubbard Lane
Eureka, CA 95501
The business is conducted by an individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 11/12/25. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Sara Bullock, Owner This November 12, 2025 by SG, Deputy Clerk
12/4, 12/11, 12/18, 12/25 (25-488)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00609

The following person is doing Business as
DHH Drafting
Humboldt
19631 Margaret Ln
Arcata, CA 95521
PO Box 134
Bayside, CA 95524
Daniel H Hertel
1931 Margaret Ln
Arcata, CA 95521

The business is conducted by a married couple. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on n/a. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Daniel Hertel, Owner/Co-partner This November 18, 2025 by SG, Deputy Clerk
12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1 (25-490)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00635

The following person is doing Business as
CNC Construction
Humboldt
1901 Harrison Ave
Eureka, CA 95501
Alfredo Cadena
1901 Harrison Ave
Eureka, CA 95501
The business is conducted by an individual. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on n/a. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Alfredo Cadena, Owner This December 8, 2025 by JR, Deputy Clerk
12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1 (25-492)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00611

The following person is doing Business as
Dry Farmed Medicinals
Humboldt
125 Shively Flat Rd
Shively, CA 95565
Organic Medicinals, Inc
CA 3859795
125 Shively Flat Rd
Shively, CA 95565
The business is conducted by a corporation. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 1/4/2016. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Jill Vander Linden, CEO This November 20, 2025 by TH, Deputy Clerk
12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1 (25-493)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00612

The following person is doing Business as
Alluvium

Humboldt
125 Shively Flat Rd
Shively, CA 95565
Dry Farmed Organic Medicinals, LLC
CA 201934710086
125 Shively Flat Rd
Shively, CA 95565

The business is conducted by a limited liability company. The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 12/4/2019. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). /s/ Jill Vander Linden, CEO/President

OBITUARIES



Martha Peabody Traphagen
April 21, 1943 - November 23, 2025

Martha Peabody Traphagen passed away the evening of November 23, 2025. She was under the care Hospice of Humboldt and residing in Caring Companions Rest Home in Eureka, CA.

Martha was born April 21, 1943 in Pasadena; CA. When she was 12, her mother also fondly known as Mrs. “T” and her four daughters moved to a beach house on Balboa Island, CA. She enjoyed time at the beach, a trip to the Fun Zone or later the Rendezvous Ball Room became a favorite spot.

Martha attended Newport Harbor High School and graduated in 1961. She was the editor of the school yearbook and active in many social and school activities. While attended Orange Coast Junior College she started working part-time as a vault teller at the Balboa Peninsula Branch of Bank of America. This was to be the start of a 45-year banking career. She married the late David Chandler, and her daughter Elizabeth was born in 1964. Several years later, her sister Elizabeth and husband Fred Smith who lived in Eureka encouraged Martha and her family to move north to Humboldt County.

In 1971, Martha transferred to the Arcata Branch of Bank of America where she worked for 25 years. In 1996 Martha was hired by Humboldt Bank as the Arcata Branch Manager and later as Manager for the Eureka Branch. When Umpqua Bank acquired Humboldt Bank, she was promoted to Regional Manager. She liked to say of her career, “I started at the bottom and worked my way to the top”. The part of banking Martha loved most was commercial lending. She was happiest when her customer’s loans were approved by the loan committee.

Martha enjoyed being involved in her community. She volunteered for: The Arcata Breast Health Project, Cancer Society, Jazz Festival, Planned Parenthood and Future Farmers of America. She served on the boards for: The Redwood Region Logging Conference, First Five Humboldt, HSU Foundation Board, College of the Redwoods Foundation Board and the Lucille Clark Trust. She was a member of Arcata Soroptimist and later Eureka Southwest Rotary Club.

Martha retired from banking in 2007. Her favorite times were spent entertaining friends at Ruth Lake and Perry Gulch Ranch in Mendocino. At Perry Gulf Ranch there was, wine tasting in Anderson Valley, hiking to the Navarro River with a stop to see the albino redwood or cruising the ranch were her favorite past times. Of course, she enjoyed entertaining friends at her home in Freshwater.

Both she and Perry enjoyed traveling. Some of their many trips were to Greece, a boat trip up the Yangtze River and tour of China, all the countries in Southeast Asia, Central America, Spain, Portugal and the British Virgin Islands. When not traveling across the pond, they would load the dog in the “Air Bus” and tour the west visiting sights and friends.

Martha is preceded in death by her father Peter Traphagen and mother Virginia Salisbury Traphagen; her sister Elizabeth Traphagen Smith and husband Fred Smith, and brother -in-law William Bathel. She is survived by her husband Perry Mayrisch, sisters Sara Traphagen and Jan Traphagen, daughter Elizabeth Castro, granddaughter Alexandra Castro Baratto, niece Lura Smith, nephews David Smith, Charles and John Bathel, and grand nephews and nieces Andrew, Gavin, Tessa, Kaylee, Katherine, William, Beckett and Rustin.

A Celebration of Life will be held on January 10th at Baywood Golf & Country Club, Arcata from 1-3 p.m. .

Many thanks to Hospice of Humboldt County for their amazing care and to all the nurses, care providers and friends who comforted her during the past few years. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in memory of Martha Traphagen to Hospice of Humboldt or a charity of your choice.

This November 20, 2025
by TH, Deputy Clerk
12/11, 12/18, 12/25, 1/1 (25-494)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 25-00627

The following person is doing Business as

Soper Family Psychiatry Medical Group
Humboldt

1836 Central Avenue Suite A
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Soper Family Psychiatry Medical Group
CA 3791902

**1836 Central Avenue Suite A
McKinleyville, CA 95519**

The business is conducted by a corporation.

The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or name listed above on 11/24/2025.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

/s/ Robert E. Soper, MD, Chief Executive Officer

This December 3, 2025

by JC, Deputy Clerk

12/18, 12/25, 1/1, 1/8 (25-499)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Bjorn Van Berg
CASE NO. CV2502460
SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH ST.
EUREKA, CA. 95501

PETITION OF: Bjorn Van Berg
for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name

Bjorn Van Berg
to Proposed Name
Bjorn Bruce Van Berg

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: January 12, 2026
Time: 8:30 am, Dept. 4

For information on how to appear remotely for your hearing, please visit <https://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov/>

SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH STREET
EUREKA, CA. 95501
Date: November 14, 2025
Filed: November 14, 2025
/s/ Timothy A. Canning
Judge of the Superior Court
11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 (25-460)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Tara Nicole Bratt
CASE NO. CV2502458
SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH ST.
EUREKA, CA. 95501

PETITION OF: Tara Nicole Bratt
for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name

Tara Nicole Bratt
to Proposed Name
Tara Nicole Van Berg

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: January 12, 2026
Time: 8:30 am, Dept. 4

For information on how to appear remotely for your hearing, please visit <https://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov/>

SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH STREET
EUREKA, CA. 95501
Date: November 17, 2025
Filed: November 19, 2025
/s/ Timothy A. Canning
Judge of the Superior Court
11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 (25-461)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Jeana Marie Herbst Garrett
CASE NO. CV2502466
SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH ST.
EUREKA, CA. 95501

PETITION OF: Jeana Marie Herbst Garrett
for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name

Jeana Marie Herbst Garrett

to Proposed Name
Jeana Marie Herbst
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: January 12, 2026
Time: 8:30 am, Dept. 4
For information on how to appear remotely for your hearing, please visit <https://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov/>

SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
825 FIFTH STREET
EUREKA, CA. 95501
Date: November 13, 2025
Filed: November 14, 2025
/s/ Timothy A. Canning
Judge of the Superior Court
11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 (25-484)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF

Melvin McCornack

CASE NO. PR2500311

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of
Melvin McCornack

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Petitioner, David McCornack & Susan Martin

In the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt. The petition for probate requests that David McCornack & Susan Martin be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 8, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt, 825 Fifth Street, Eureka, in Dept.: 4

For information on how to appear remotely for your hearing, please visit <https://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov/>

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court

before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER:

Rory A. Hanson

305 K Street

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 445-2011

Filed December 4, 2025

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

12/11, 12/18, 12/25 (25-491)

MENDES MINI STORAGE ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property describe below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business and Professions Code, Section 2328 of the UCC, section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

The undersigned will sell at public sale by competitive bidding on the 3rd day of January 2026, at 10:00 am, on the premises where said property has been stored and which are located at Mendes Mini Storage, 1133 Riverwalk Drive, Fortuna, California, County of Humboldt, State of California, the following:

Unit 463 Alexis Luna
Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in cash only. All purchased items sold as is, where is and must be removed at time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. Dated.

December 18, 2025

December 24, 2025

Mendes Mini Storage

1133 Riverwalk Dr.

Fortuna, California 95540

707-725-1300

12/18, 12/25 (25-497)

EMPLOYMENT



CITY OF FORTUNA TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR I/II, FULL TIME

TPO I: \$43,240 - \$52,608 per year
TPO II: \$47,778 - \$58,129 per year.

Under the general supervision of a senior operator, to perform a variety of operations, control, and maintenance functions in the City's water and wastewater treatment systems; to perform laboratory testing and sample collection; to perform a variety of semiskilled, and skilled work in the maintenance, repair, and construction of wastewater treatment facility; and to do related work as required.

Applicants must possess valid CDL, and be at least 18 years of age.

Please apply online at **governmentjobs.com**

Applications must be received by

4 p.m. on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

OBITUARIES



Chris Frolking
1949-2025

Chris died at his beloved home on Barry Ridge in Kneeland, California with me, his partner of 48 years, at his side. Chris lived with dementia for about the last 7 years. Gradually he saw his connection to life slipping away, his passion for the natural world, his art, his music, his love of science and learning. He finally made the choice to end his life. This decision reflected the determination, strength and clarity that was Chris. With the support of Dr Michael Fratkin, Hospice of Humboldt, our dear neighbor, Michelle Mckenzie and myself, Chris stopped eating and drinking on November 19. He died 11 days later. Peace and love permeated Chris' final days. He died gracefully and beautifully.

Donations to Hospice of Humboldt would be appreciated.

I wish to add a special thanks to Christa, Samantha and Scotty of Hospice of Humboldt and Erin, who I met through Dr Fratkin. Loving kindness is everything. Thank you, Margie Nulsen



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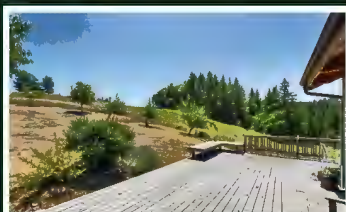
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**8015 KNEELAND ROAD, KNEELAND
\$850,000**

This breathtaking ± 40 acre property boasts a southwest-facing landscape filled with open meadows and undisturbed woodlands stocked with maples and old-growth firs. The custom built 2,400 sq.ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home offers an inviting atmosphere with vaulted ceilings, beautiful old-growth fir floors, and a cozy wood-burning fireplace. Embrace a sustainable lifestyle with fully off-grid living, equipped with solar power and spring-sourced water. Outside a mature orchard and fully fenced garden area complete the idyllic setting. Located at the end of a private road, this unique property is a true sanctuary, blending comfort, sustainability, and natural beauty.



**2616 VISSER COURT,
MCKINLEYVILLE
\$525,000**

Discover exceptional versatility and income potential on this ± 1.07 -acre property located in an exclusive gated community. The main residence features 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom,

complemented by an outbuilding and a privacy fence for added comfort and functionality. A separate, fully finished 1-bedroom, 1-bath secondary home offers the perfect opportunity for rental income, multigenerational living, or guest accommodations. With ample space for future improvements, this oversized parcel provides both immediate livability and long-term potential in a peaceful, lightly traveled setting.



**204 W WASHINGTON
STREET, EUREKA
\$349,000**

Discover this beautifully updated two-bedroom, one-bath bungalow on a desirable corner lot near Eureka's historic Old Town. Inside, enjoy a stylishly remodeled

interior that combines modern comfort with classic charm. The efficient layout includes an enclosed entry, plus a versatile flex room ideal for an office, pantry, or guest space. Outside, a fully fenced patio with a hot tub invites relaxation, while the one-car garage adds convenience—all in a prime, walkable location.



**3253 GREENWOOD HEIGHTS
DRIVE, KNEELAND
\$598,000**

Perfect spot above the fog but not far from town! So many creative indoor spaces for recreation, home office, hobbies, or

guests. So many beautiful outdoor spaces for gardening, birdwatching, meditation, and play. 3 bedroom, 2 bath country home, with flex use room and mezzanine. Garage, shop, sheds, carport, decks, and even a duck house!



**200 REBECCA LANE,
ARCATA
\$639,000**

Enjoy country living close to town with this charming two bedroom, one bath single-story home on over five acres with your own Redwood Forest. The move-

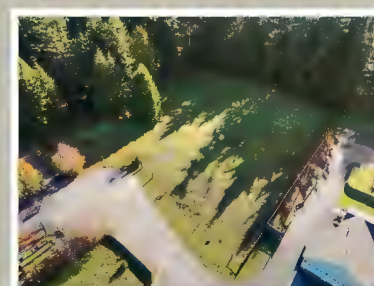
in ready home features an open circular floor plan, fresh paint, updated bathroom, oversized laundry, and more. Raised garden beds, mature fruit trees, and a classic red barn make it ideal for gardening and animal lovers alike. Just minutes from Arcata, Cal Poly Humboldt, and the Mad River!



**1171 MAD RIVER
ROAD, MAD RIVER
\$549,000**

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**± 0.72 ACRES VISSER
COURT, MCKINLEYVILLE
\$210,000**

Discover an ideal home site on this buildable ± 0.72 -acre parcel at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac. The lot offers flat, usable space and is surrounded by nature,

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